



## About Inspired Learning

Some teachers are providing live virtual learning sessions. Others are recording themselves for children to learn on their own time. In any case, your ultimate goal is to inspire children to learn. As they begin to think more deeply, children connect concepts and understand the world in new ways. You can help children experience the joy of aha moments through intentional interactions that build language and strengthen thinking. Even through virtual support, you can inspire children to have a love for learning.



## CLASS Focus



### Concept Development

Your use of instructional discussions and activities to promote students' higher-order thinking skills. Moreover, your focus on understanding rather than rote instruction.



### Quality of Feedback

The degree to which you provide feedback that expands learning and understanding and encourages participation.



### Language Modeling

The quality and amount of your use of language-stimulation and language-facilitation techniques.

## Planning to Inspire Learning in a Virtual Setting

In virtual settings, children benefit from different groupings and frequencies for their sessions with you. Start planning how you can effectively introduce complex ideas to explore, support children's extended thinking, and inspire them to learn.



### Providing Frequent Opportunities to Build Skills

Every virtual session is a chance to help children build their thinking and language skills. Plan for a variety of structures—large group, small group, individual—so that children have frequent and equal access to activities.

Some Suggestions

- ① Schedule brief, focused one-on-one sessions.
- ② Provide ways for children to be involved even if they miss live online sessions.
- ③ Think deeply in frequent small groups; have fun in occasional big groups.

Your Idea(s)

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### Building Concepts, Connections, and Understanding

For children, exploring how concepts and experiences are related is part of gaining knowledge and developing language skills. Make the most of virtual sessions by helping children connect learning with their lives.

Some Suggestions

- ① Encourage children to explain how a lesson relates to their personal experience.
- ② Include resources available at home in activities and conversations.
- ③ Say what you see children doing while they are doing it.

Your Idea(s)

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### Supporting Ideas and Efforts for Sustained Thinking

Sustained interactions can deepen children's thinking and motivate them to take on challenges. The most effective setting for sustained interactions is uninterrupted one-on-one time. Virtual learning provides this ideal setting.

Some Suggestions

- ① Listen and respond to a child's questions and ideas about a challenging task.
- ② Challenge a child to make a prediction or comparison.
- ③ Offer specific encouragement. Notice a child's efforts and successes!

Your Idea(s)

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### Out of Classroom Supports

Virtual learning is vital to ensuring that all children have opportunities to build important thinking skills. Alternative meeting times, recordings, and activities that don't require online access will allow busier family members to make sure their child is still getting the most out of your teaching. When you communicate developmentally appropriate learning goals and share simple strategies, you give families what they need to support their child at home. Communicate regularly with family members, affirming and appreciating their efforts as their child's first teachers. With your support, family members may even become inspired to learn more, too!

## Before your virtual session begins ...

Now that you've brainstormed some ways to inspire learning in your virtual classroom, choose an interaction goal to focus on during your next meeting with children.

Today, my interaction goal is:

- ☐ Focus interactions on a child's individual interests.
- ☐ Connect activities to children's real-life experiences.
- ☐ Say what I see a child doing as it is happening.
- ☐ Ask several questions about a child's thoughts.
- ☐ Offer specific encouragement for a child's efforts.
- ☐ Guide children to predict and compare.

## After your virtual session ...

How did it go? Were you able to support children's thinking in the way you planned from the list above? If so, check off the related observation to the right! Perhaps you used other strategies too! Check off anything else you noticed.

Today, I noticed that:

- ☐ Children maintained interest in our interactions.
- ☐ Children described a connection to their lives.
- ☐ Children responded when I narrated their actions.
- ☐ I learned something new about a child's thinking.
- ☐ My encouragement helped a child succeed.
- ☐ Children explained predictions and comparisons.

## Next time you meet with children ...

Now that you've taken a moment to reflect on the interactions from this virtual teaching session, it's time to consider what you'll do next to continue inspiring children's learning. Based on your reflection, consider the statements below, and complete those that stand out to you.

- 1 Individualize learning in this new way: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Ask this new question: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Encourage a child by \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Provide this challenge: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Do this again: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Do this instead: \_\_\_\_\_



## Inspiration for Inspired Learning!

Snip and tape these questions, prompts, and encouragements for children by your virtual workstation.



**What does  
this remind  
you of?**



**I wonder  
why ...  
What do you  
think?**



**What is  
another  
way to ...?**



**Why do you  
think that  
happened?**



**What would  
happen if ...?**



**You're working  
really hard  
to ...**



**You can do it!  
You're almost  
there!**



**How did you  
know that?**



**Tell me more  
about ...**